

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for authorizing use of funds securely stored in a postal device, comprising:

upon power-up of the postal device, transmitting from the postal device to a remote server present physical location information of the postal device, wherein the present physical location information of the postal device is transmitted automatically by the postal device without any user interaction;

determining, at the remote server, a present postal zip code representing a physical location of the postal device based on the present physical location information;

comparing, at the remote server, the present postal zip code representing the present physical location of the postal device with a previously stored zip code representing a previously stored location information of the postal device;

~~determining, at the remote server, whether the present location of the postal device is within a predetermined region specified by the previously stored location information; and~~

when the present postal zip code representing the present physical location of the postal device ~~is within the predetermined region~~ matches the previously stored zip code representing the previously stored location of the postal device, transmitting to the postal device from the remote server an authorization to use the funds stored in the postal device to produce postage indicium, and

when the present postal zip code representing the present physical location of the postal device ~~is not within the predetermined region~~ does not match the previously stored zip code representing the previously stored location of the postal device, transmitting to the postal device from the remote server a signal inhibiting use of the funds stored in the postal device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising, when the present physical location of the postal device is not within the ~~predetermined region~~ previously stored zip code representing the previously stored location of the postal device, issuing a license for the postal device authorizing the use of the postal device at the present physical location.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising transmitting from the remote server to the postal device a zip code corresponding to the present physical location of the postal device.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises transmitting the present physical location information over a telephone line.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises transmitting the present physical location information over an internet connection.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises transmitting the present location information over a cellular telephone system.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting comprises transmitting the present location information based on an output of a position determining apparatus of the postal device.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the position determining apparatus is a global positioning system receiver and the present physical location comprises global positioning system coordinates of the postal device.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said postal device is a postal security device.

16. (Currently Amended) A postal device for the secure storage of funds, comprising:

a memory for storing a value indicative of the funds;

a location generator for generating ~~present~~ location information describing a present physical location of the postal device; and

a communication port for providing communication between the postal device and a remote server, wherein:

the ~~present~~ location information is transmitted via the communication port to the remote server automatically upon power-up of the postal device and without any user interaction;

an authorization is received via the communication port from the remote server to use the postal device and the stored funds when ~~[[a]]~~ the present physical location of the postal device as ~~determined from the present~~ described by the location information indicates the present physical location of the postal device is within a preauthorized ~~region of operation~~ zip code within which the postal device is authorized for operation, and

a signal is received by the postal device via the communication port from the remote server inhibiting use of the postal device and the stored funds when the present physical location of the postal device indicates that the present physical location of the postal device is outside the ~~preauthorized region of operation~~ zip code within which the postal device is authorized for operation.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, further comprising an apparatus for encrypting location communications between the postal device and the remote server.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for managing the use of stored funds, comprising:

a local device for securely storing the funds and outputting a proof of postage indicium, comprising:

a memory for storing a value indicative of the funds and a postal drop off location,

a location generator for generating present postal drop off location information of the local device;

a communication port for providing communication between the local device and a remote server, wherein the communication port transmits the present postal drop off location information to the remote server automatically upon power-up of the device and without any user interaction; and

the remote server, comprising:

a database storing a preauthorized region of operation including a postal drop off location for the local device,

wherein:

the remote server compares a present postal drop off location of the local device provided by the present location information to the preauthorized region of operation;

the remote server issues an authorization to the local device to allow it to use the funds if the present postal drop off location of the local device is within the preauthorized region of operation[[,]]; and

the remote server issues a signal to the local device inhibiting use of the funds if the present postal drop off location of the local device is outside the preauthorized region of operation.

21-23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising transmitting from the remote server to a postal carrier a request for a new location license.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising determining the present postal ~~drop-off~~ zip code representing the present physical location of the device based on caller identification information.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising determining the present postal zip code representing the present physical location of the device based on a network address of the device.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising determining the present postal zip code representing the present physical location of the device based on a location identifier of the cellular telephone system.

28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, further comprising an apparatus for digitally signing communications between the postal device and the remote server.

29. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 16, wherein the communication port receives from the remote server a license to use the funds at the present physical location of the postal device from the remote server when the ~~present location information of the postal device~~ indicates that the present physical location of the postal device is outside the preauthorized region of operation.

30. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 16, wherein the location generator is a global positioning system device.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the local device further comprises an apparatus for digitally signing location communications between the local device and the remote server.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the local device further comprises an apparatus for encrypting location communications between the local device and the remote server.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the communication port receives from the remote server a license permitting the local device to use the funds when the local device is outside the preauthorized region of operation.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the remote server requests the license from a postal carrier.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the location generator is a global positioning system device.

36. (Currently Amended) A postal device that provides authorized funds for the disbursement of postage indicia, the device communicatively accessible by a host processor, wherein the host processor communicates with a remote server, the postal device comprising:

a memory for storing an amount of funds;

a communication port accessible by the host processor; and

a location generator that provides a location signal, upon powering up, indicating the actual present physical location of the device to the remote server via the communication port and the host processor.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 whereby the ~~device location code may be~~ present postal zip code representing the present physical location is displayed by the device.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 whereby the ~~device location may be~~ present postal zip code representing the present physical location is displayed by the device.